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Bullwinkel

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(54) **LOCKING DEVICE FOR PRODUCT DISPLAY HOOKS, SHOWCASES, CABINETS, FIXTURES, AND CASEWORK**

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(51) **Int. Cl.**
E05B 67/36 (2006.01)
A47F 5/08 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC ***E05B 67/36*** (2013.01); *A47F 5/0861* (2013.01); *Y10T 70/7486* (2015.04); *Y10T 70/7576* (2015.04)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
CPC . E05B 67/36; A47F 5/0861; Y10T 70/7486; Y10T 70/50; Y10T 70/5004; Y10T 70/7576; Y10T 70/7582
USPC 70/232, 387, 14, 57, 57.1, 58, 32–34, 70/360, 361, 49, 461, 462; 211/4, 7, 54.1, 211/57.1, 59.1; 248/551–553
See application file for complete search history.

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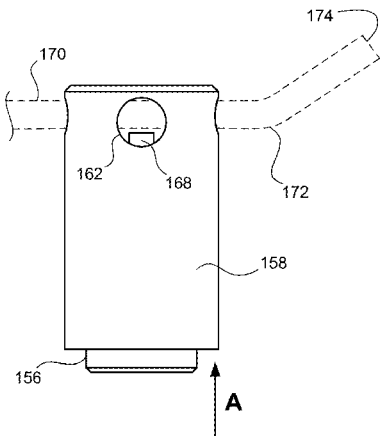
(57) **ABSTRACT**

Locking devices that may be used with product display hooks, cabinets, and drawers are provided. A locking device according to one implementation comprising a housing and a shell. The housing includes an outer wall that defines an interior. The housing further includes a channel extending at least partially through the interior of the housing. The shell includes a projection. The shell is at least partially disposed within the interior of the housing and is moveable in a longitudinal direction within the interior of the housing. In an unlocked position, the projection is biased away from the first channel. In a locked position, the projection is maintained in the first channel.

15 Claims, 12 Drawing Sheets



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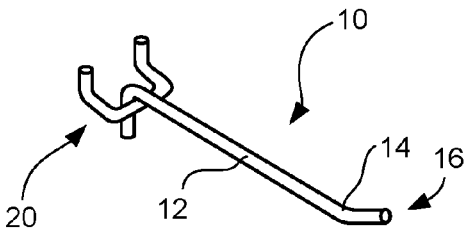
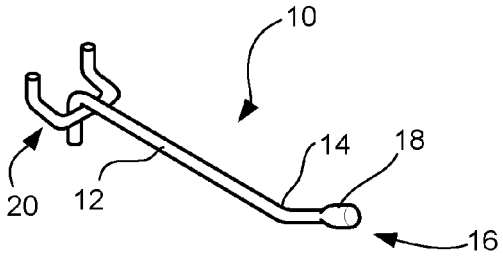
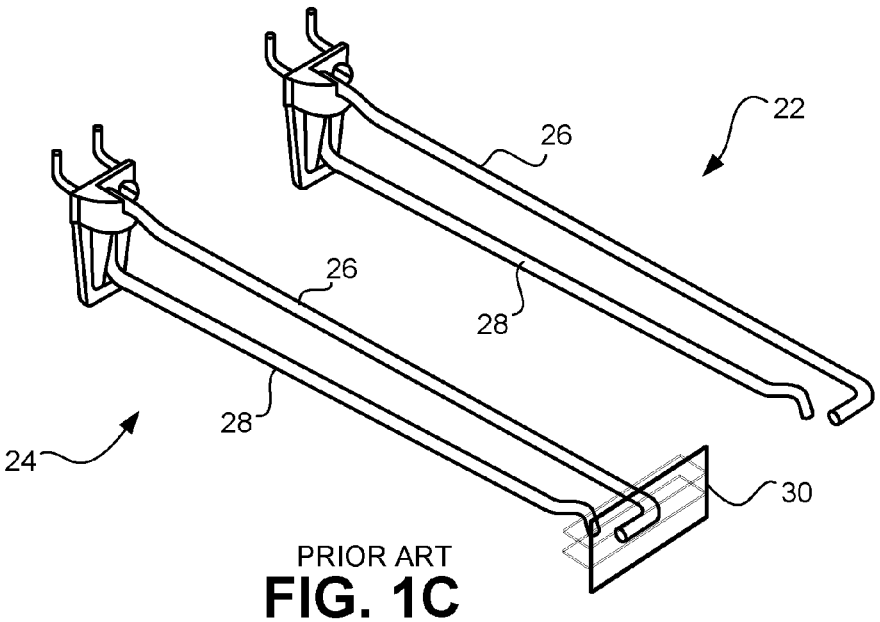


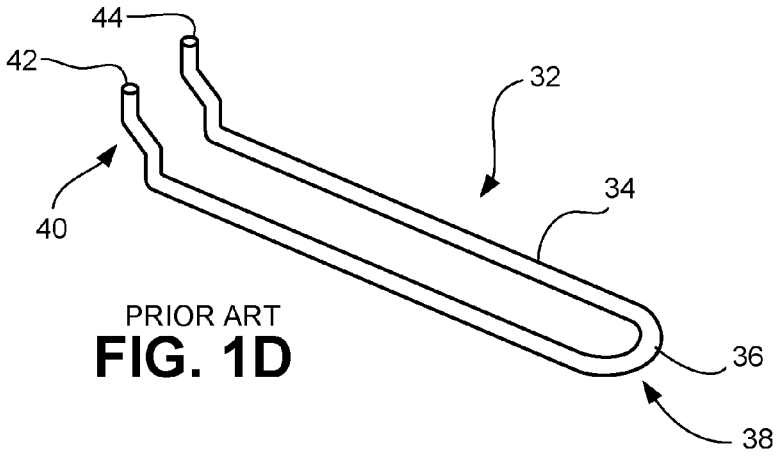
PRIOR ART
FIG. 1A



PRIOR ART
FIG. 1B



PRIOR ART
FIG. 1C



PRIOR ART
FIG. 1D

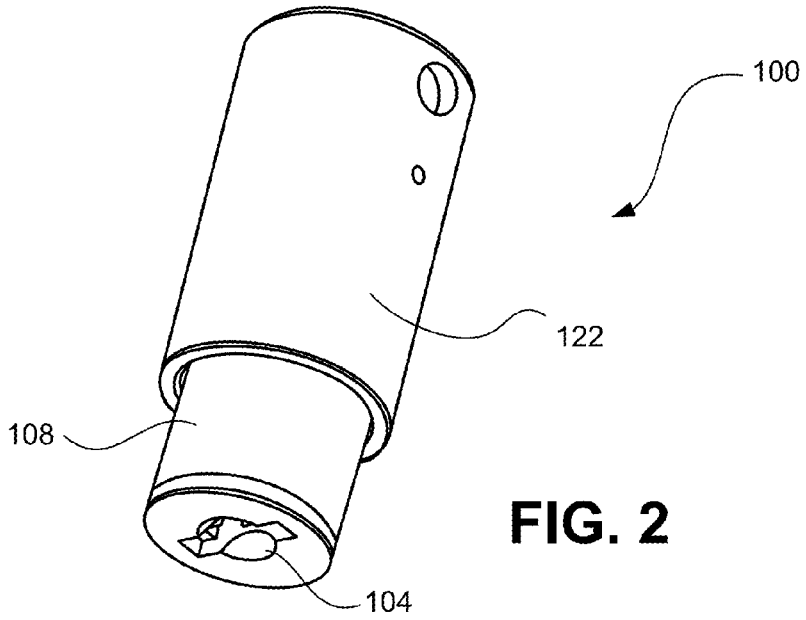


FIG. 2

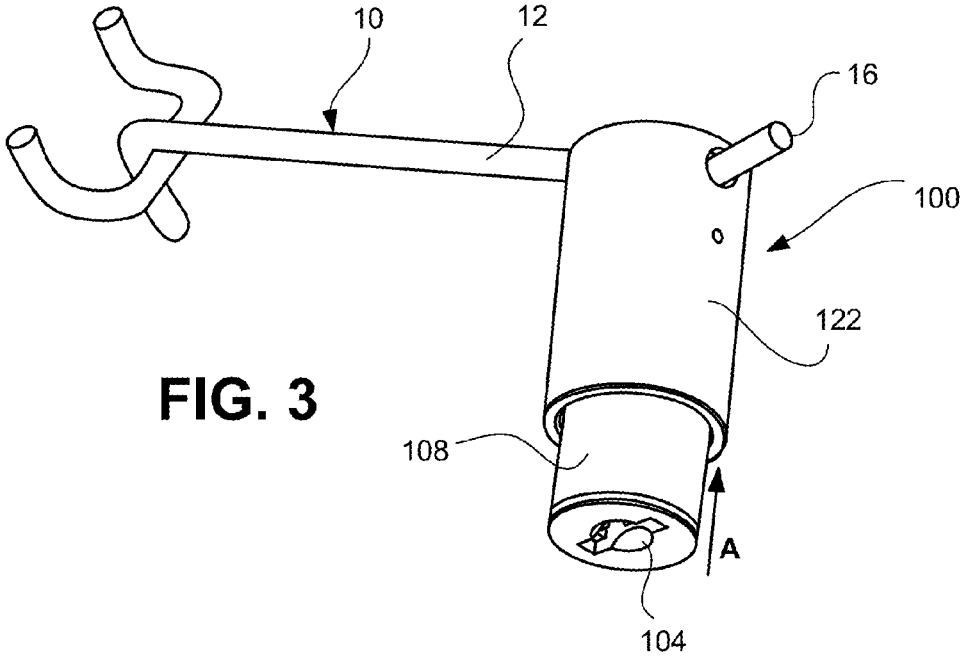


FIG. 3

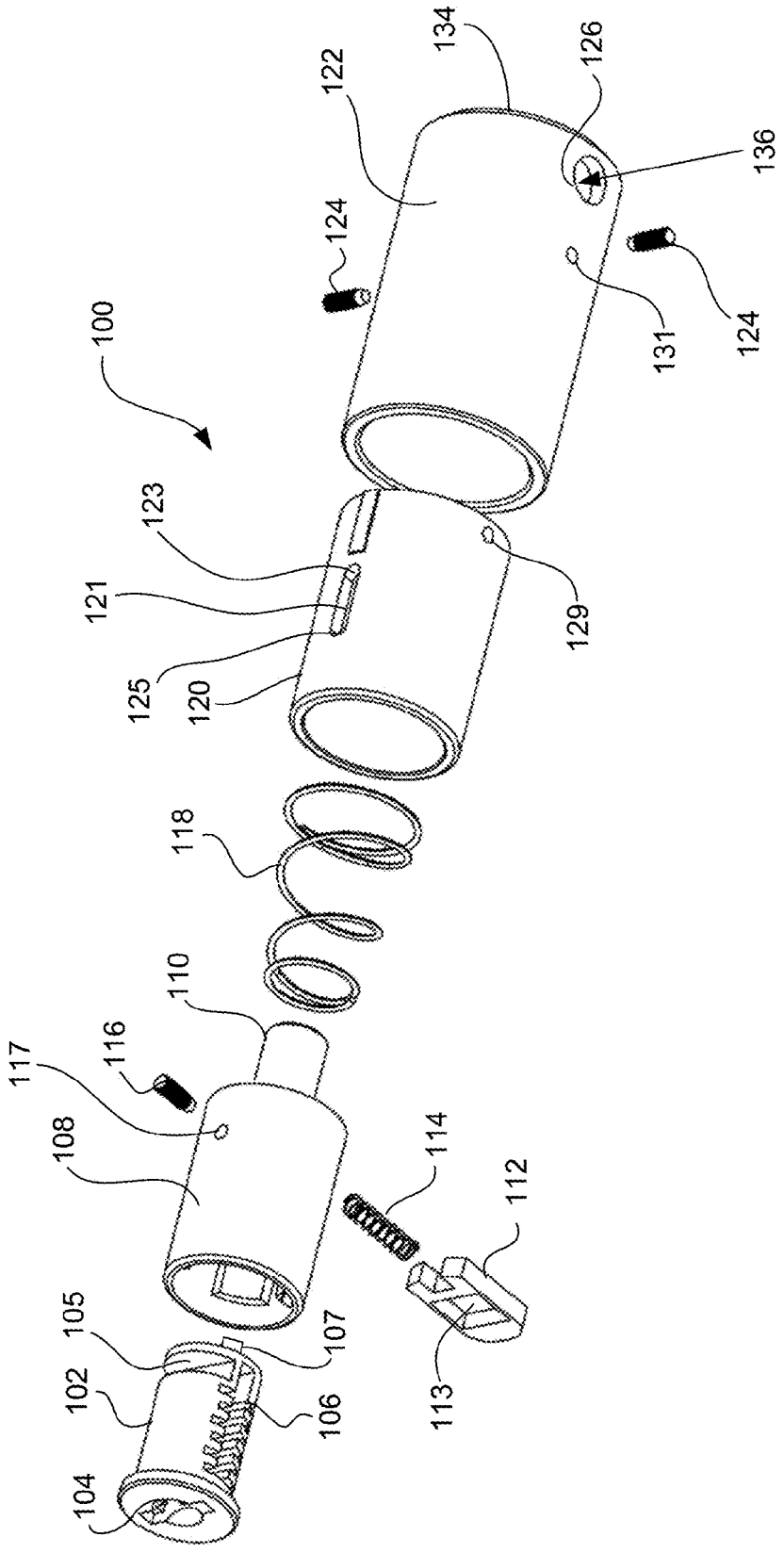

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FIG. 4

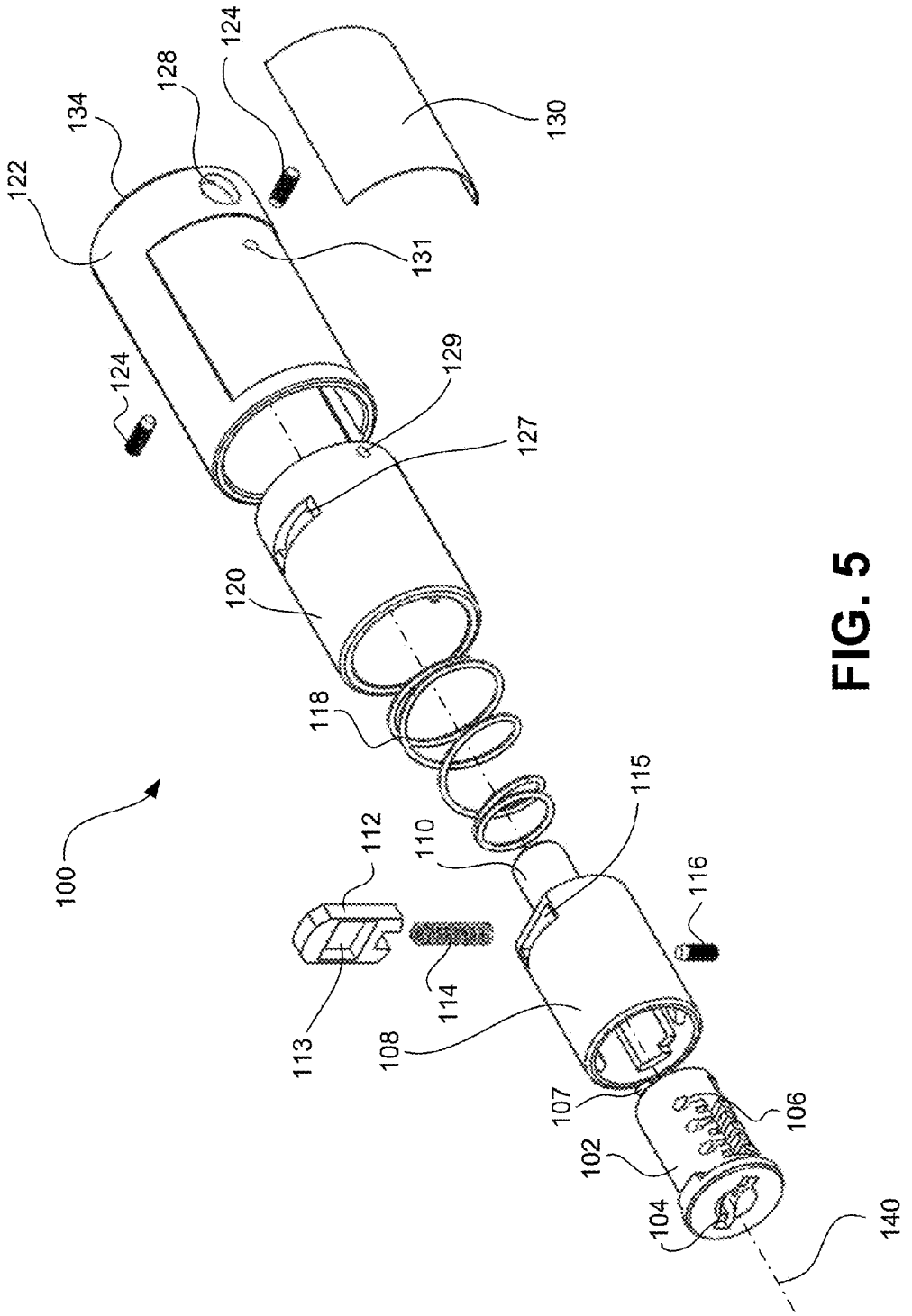
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FIG. 5

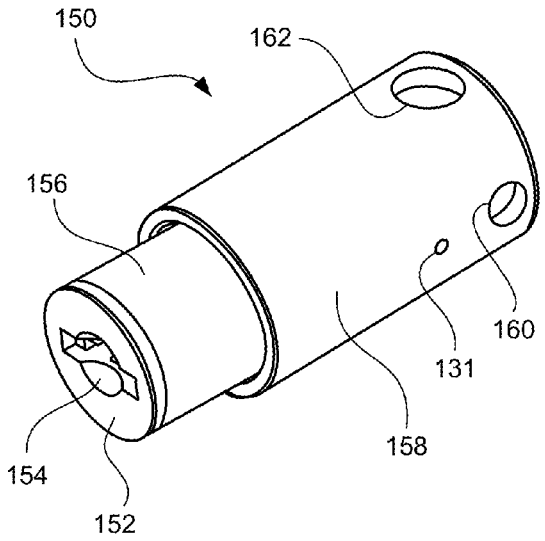

FIG. 6

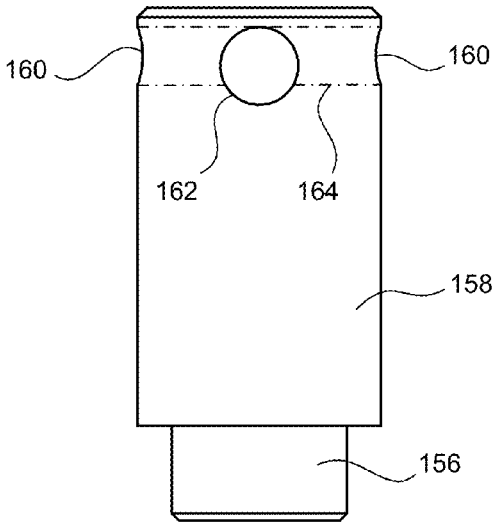

FIG. 7

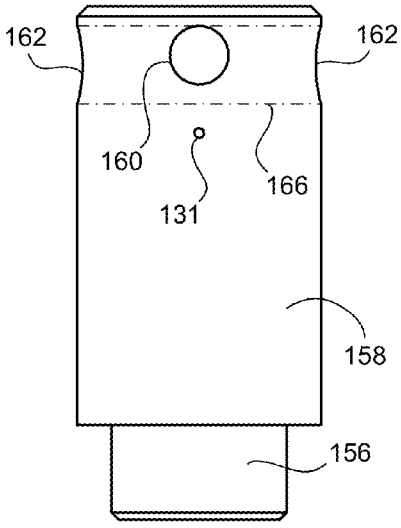

FIG. 8

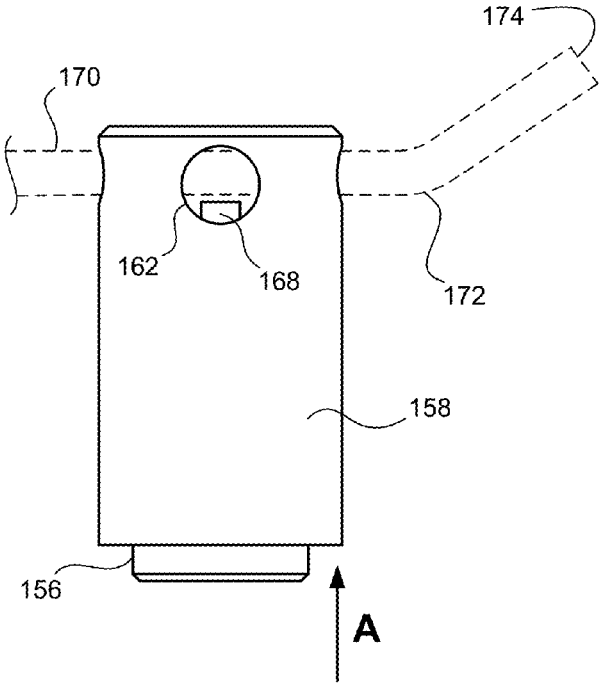

FIG. 9

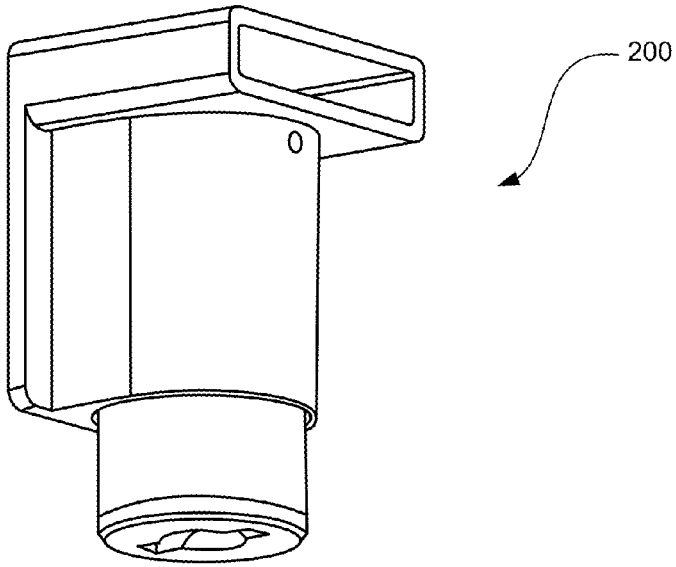

FIG. 10

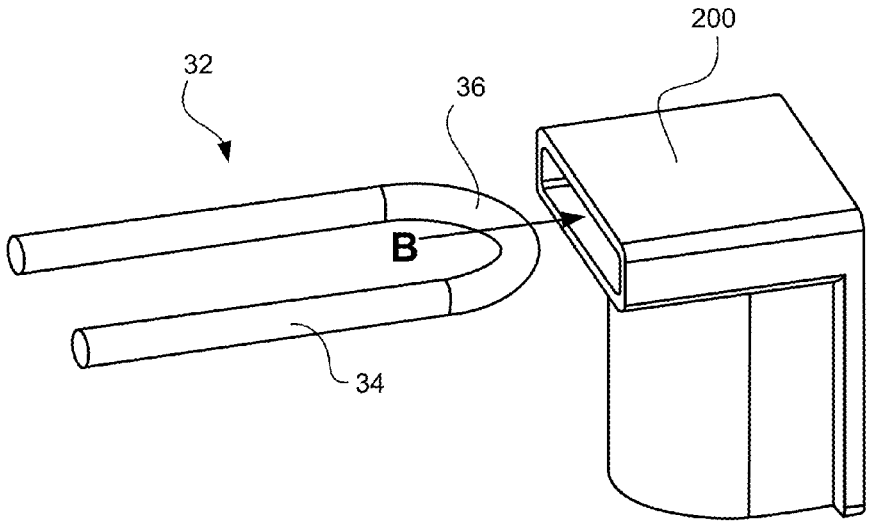

FIG. 11

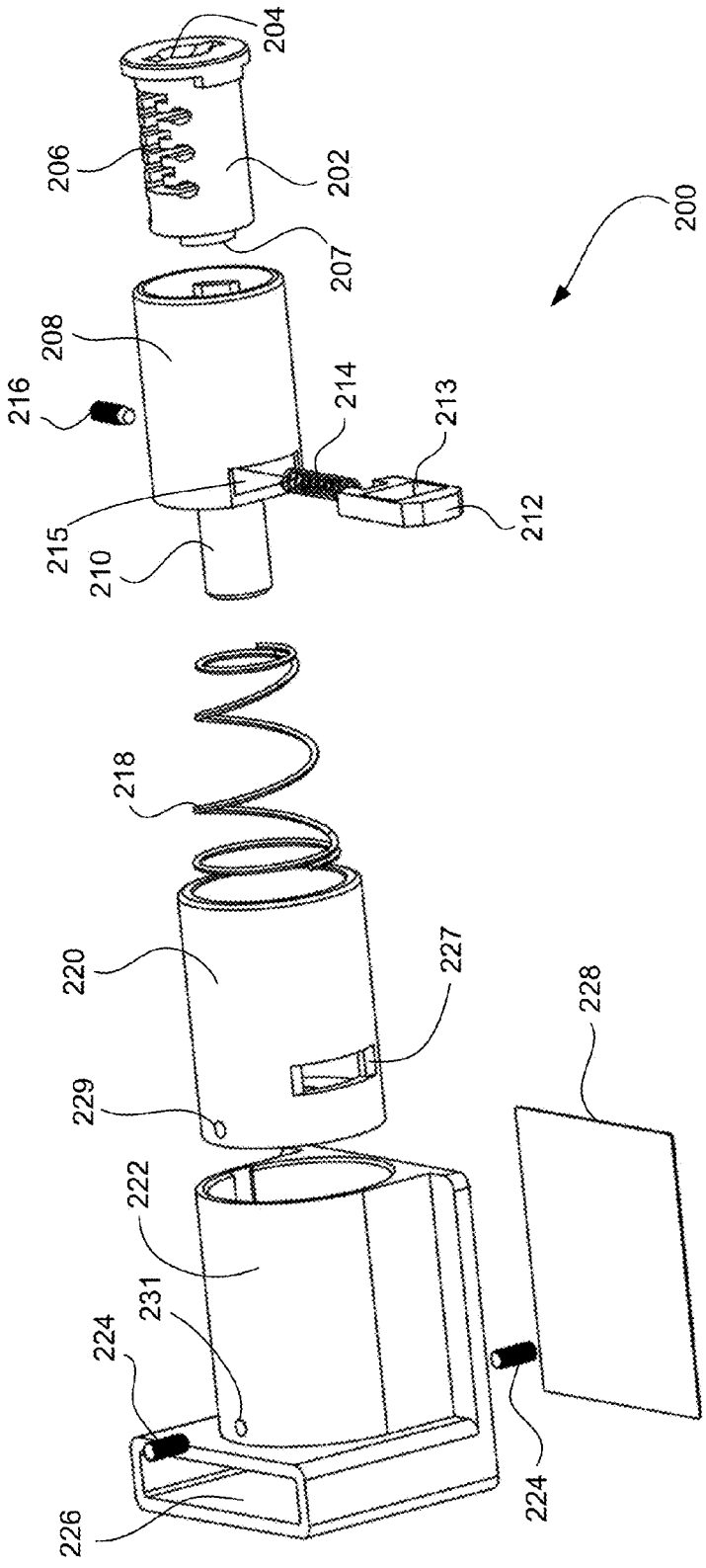
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FIG. 12

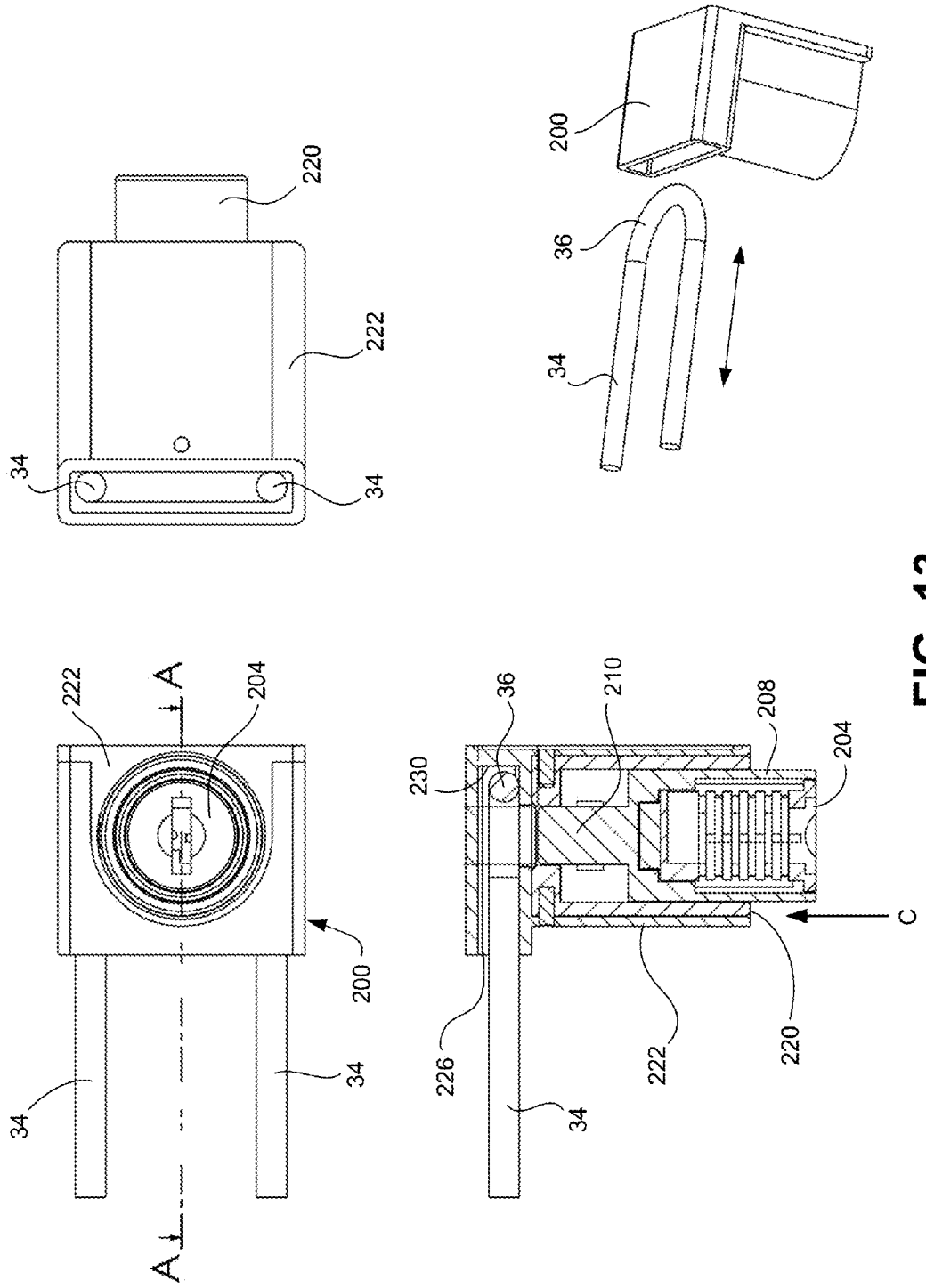
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FIG. 13

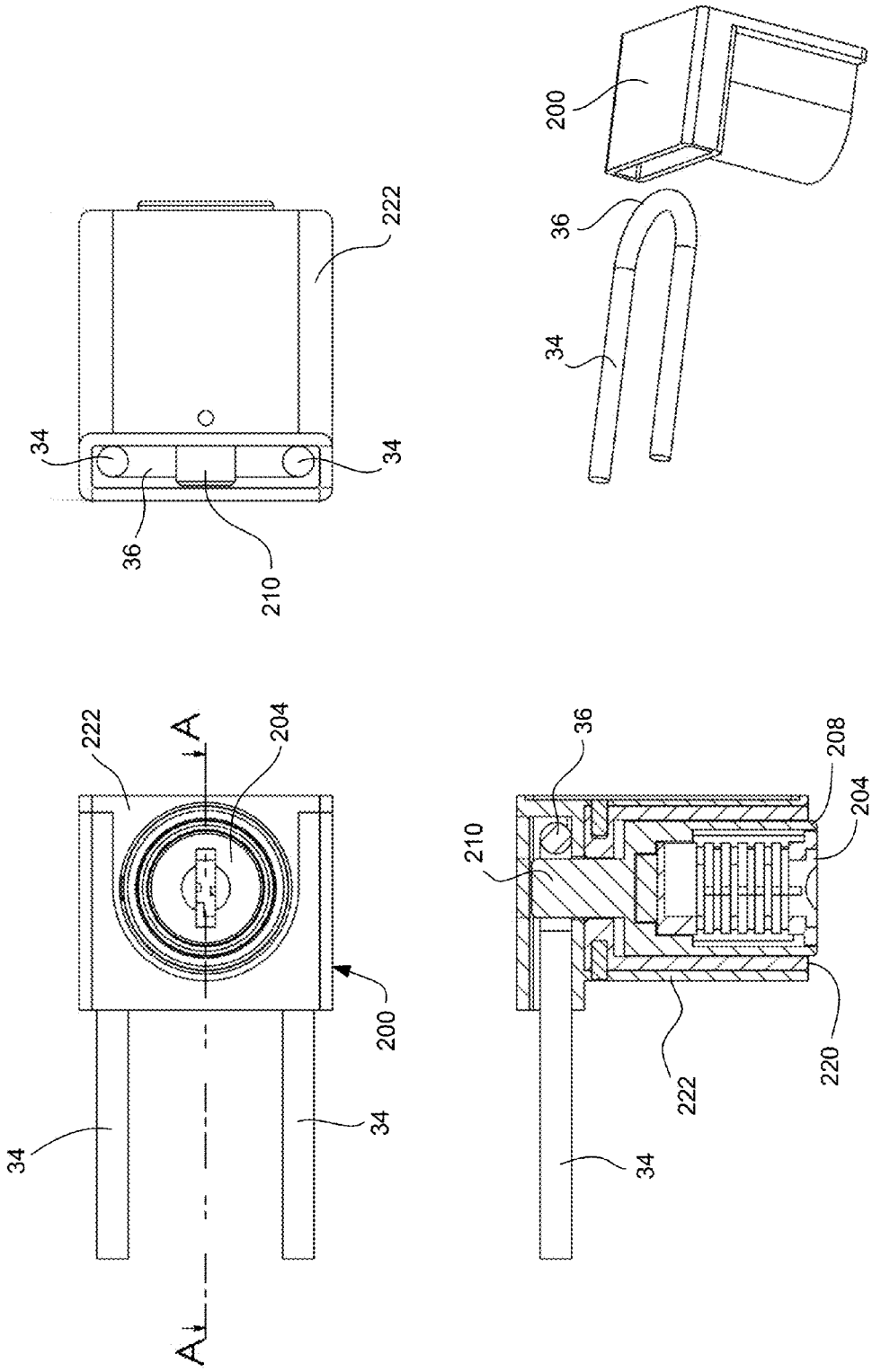
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FIG. 14

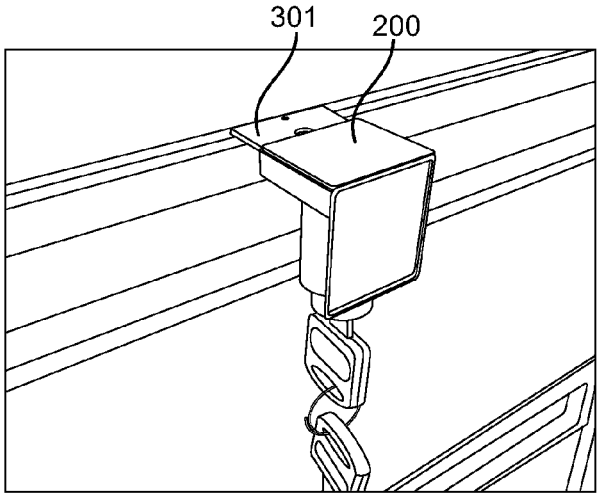

FIG. 15

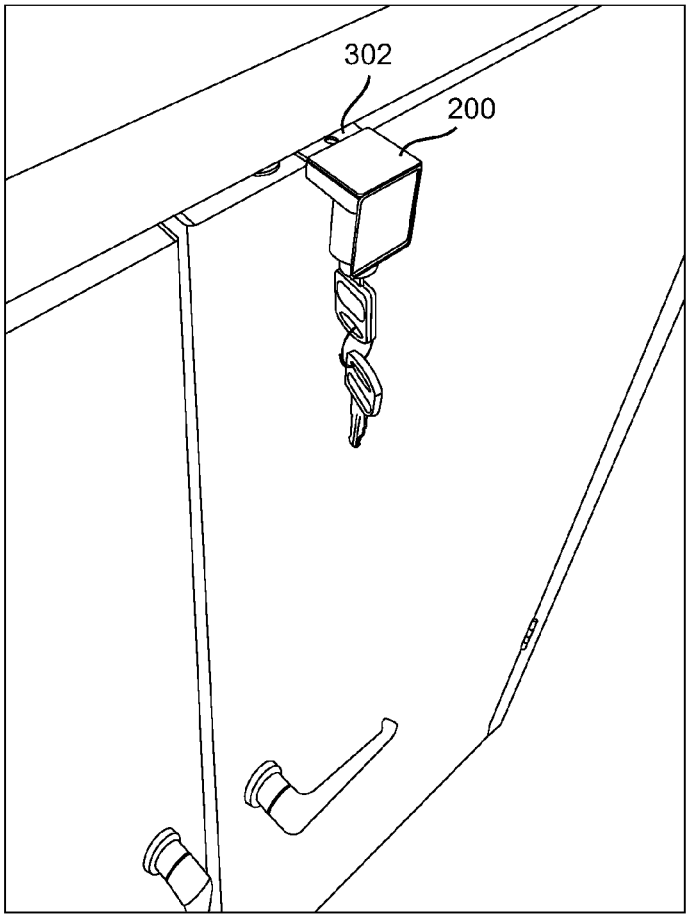

FIG. 16

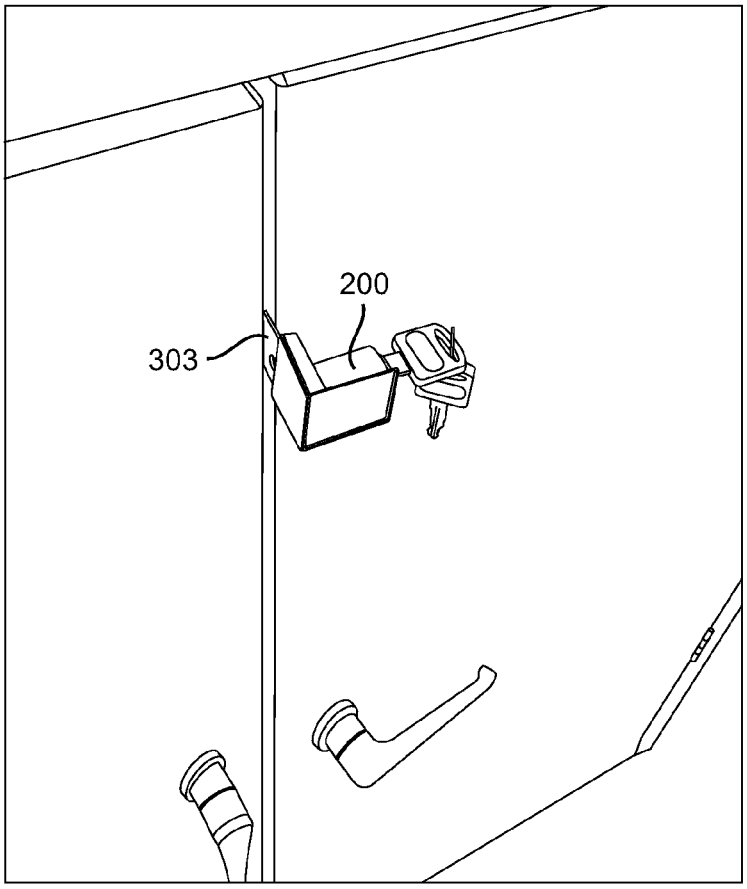

FIG. 17

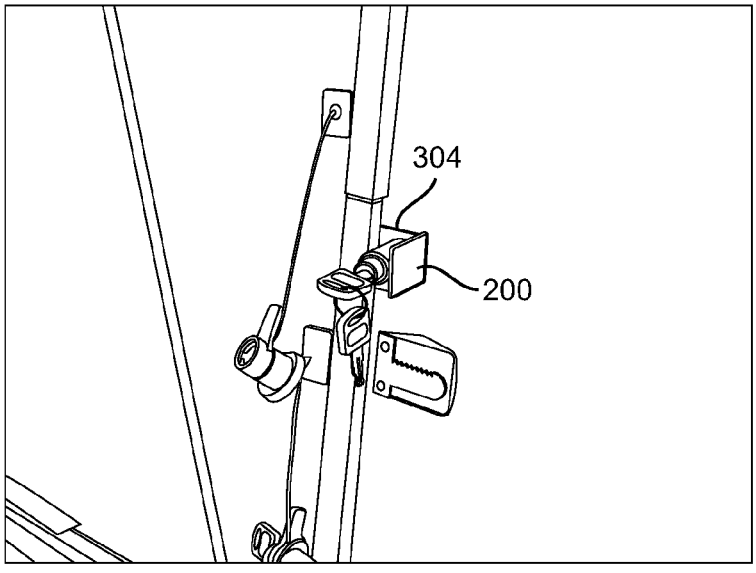

FIG. 18

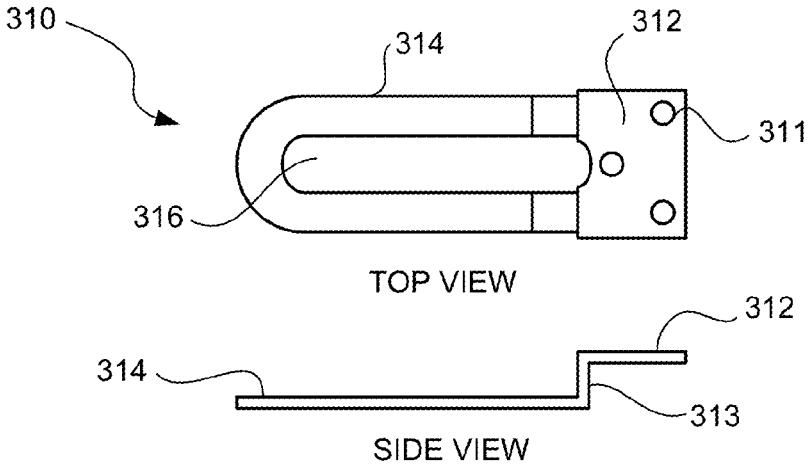

FIG. 19

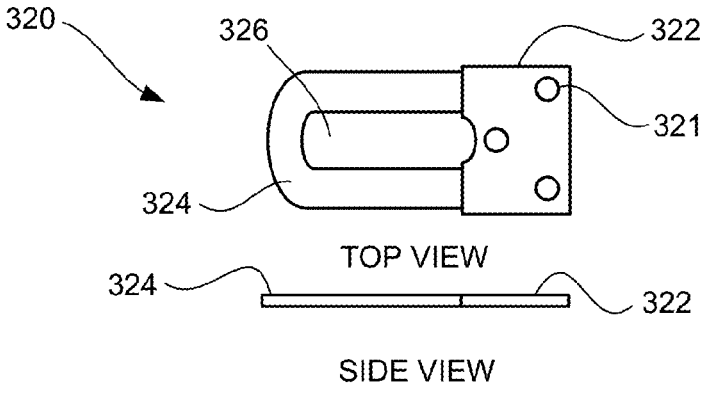

FIG. 20

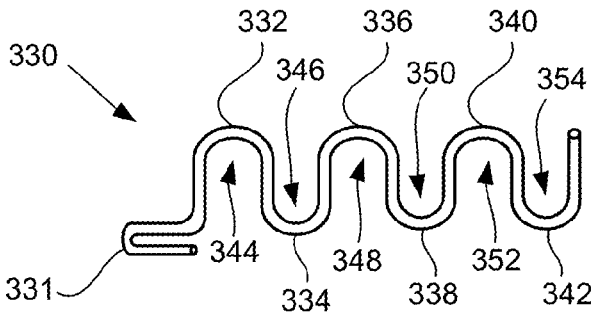

FIG. 21

LOCKING DEVICE FOR PRODUCT DISPLAY HOOKS, SHOWCASES, CABINETS, FIXTURES, AND CASEWORK

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

The present application claims the benefit of Provisional Application No. 61/932,268, filed Jan. 28, 2014, the entire contents of which are incorporated by reference herein.

TECHNICAL FIELD

The present disclosure relates generally to devices and systems for preventing unauthorized removal of goods from a product display, fixture or the like, and more particularly, a locking device for product display hooks, showcases, cabinets, casework, and fixtures with doors, drawers and sliding doors.

BACKGROUND

Conventionally, items of merchandise are commonly displayed for sale on long protruding rods supported from a support structure in the nature of a peg board, a slat board, or a wire rack. These protruding rods are commonly referred to in the art as display hooks, peg board hooks, or slat board hooks. Similar rods may also protrude from a wire display rack for the same purpose.

The rods may come in a variety of shapes and sizes. For example, FIG. **1**A illustrates a display hook or peg hook **10** formed from a single wire **12** with a single bend **14** at one end **16**, while FIG. **1**B illustrates a similar peg hook **10** with a ball end **18**. The other end **20** of the peg hook **10** is configured to be coupled to a peg board (not shown).

In another example as shown in FIG. **1**C, display hooks or peg hooks **22**, **24** are formed of wire and are provided with upper and lower outwardly extending wire arms **26**, **28**, respectively. The upper arm **26** mounts a label holder **30** for holding a label that includes pricing and other product information, while the lower arm **28** is a display hook or peg hook. After the peg hook **10**, **22**, **24** is coupled to the peg board or other support structure, consumer goods or items are slid onto the wire **12** or lower arm **28** for display. Typically, merchandise can be packaged in or mounted on cardboard, plastic, or other material capable of supporting the weight of the merchandise. The packaging materials may include a hole, slot, or opening, generally near the top of the packaging, to receive the projecting wire of the display hook or peg hook **10**, **22**, **24**. In this way, the merchandise hangs down from the wire **12** or lower arm **28** and is clearly displayed and easily removed by customers.

In a further example, FIG. **1**D illustrates a double wire peg hook **32**, also known as a loop hook or display hook. In this example, a single wire **34** is configured in an elongated U-shape forming one loop or bend **36** at one end **38**. The other end **40** includes two free ends **42**, **44** of the U-shaped wire **34**, which are configured to mate with a respective support structure, such as a peg board, slat board, etc. For use with the loop hook **32**, the item or merchandise is typically packaged in or mounted on cardboard, plastic, or other material with an elongated slot or opening configured to accept the bend **36** of the peg hook **32**.

Items of merchandise may also be displayed and stored behind doors, drawers, showcases, cabinets, casework, and sliding doors in store fixtures.

Usually, hanging merchandise is relatively small but may be expensive, such as batteries, small tools, jewelry, cosmetic products, health care products, electronics and other high theft items. Such merchandise may be a target for shoplifters because of its relatively small size and easy accessibility. A shoplifter may be able to easily and quickly remove the items hanging from a display hook or displayed in unlocked showcase doors, drawers, or sliding doors, and then attempt to leave the store without being detected.

Therefore, a need exists for devices and systems that prevent the easy removal of items of merchandise, such as small expensive items, from display hooks, showcases, cabinets, casework, and fixtures with doors, drawers, and sliding doors.

SUMMARY

A locking device for product display hooks, showcase doors, drawers, and sliding doors is provided.

A locking device according to one embodiment comprises an outer housing, which includes an outer wall and a hollow cylindrical interior, the hollow cylindrical interior having a first longitudinal axis. The outer housing further includes a first channel extending from at least one aperture in the outer wall to the interior of the outer housing, wherein the first channel traverses the first longitudinal axis. The locking device further comprises a cylindrical shell including a projection. The cylindrical shell is at least partially disposed in the interior of the outer housing and moveable within the interior along the first longitudinal axis. The locking device also includes a cylinder plug having a key hole and tumblers. The cylinder plug is rotatably contained within the cylindrical shell. Additionally, the locking device includes a barrel spring at least partially contained within the interior of the outer housing. The barrel spring is configured to bias the projection of the cylindrical shell away from the first channel to an unlocked position. The first channel is configured to receive a wire to be locked, and, in the locked position, the projection is extended into the first channel and maintained in the first channel to secure the wire.

According to another embodiment, the present disclosure provides a locking device that comprises an outer housing, a shell, and a barrel spring. The outer housing has an opening to an interior of the outer housing. The outer housing further includes a first channel extending from at least one aperture in a wall of the outer housing to the interior of the outer housing. The shell has a projection and is disposed through the opening of the outer housing and longitudinally moveable within the interior of the outer housing. The barrel spring is at least partially contained within the interior of the outer housing. The barrel spring is configured to bias the projection of the shell away from the first channel to an unlocked position. In a locked position, the projection of the shell is maintained in the first channel.

The present disclosure also describes an embodiment of a locking device comprising a housing and a shell. The housing includes an outer wall defining an interior and further including a channel extending at least partially through the interior of the housing. The shell includes a projection and is at least partially disposed within the interior of the housing and moveable in a longitudinal direction within the interior of the housing. In an unlocked position, the projection is biased away from the first channel, and, in a locked position, the projection is maintained in the first channel.

In yet another embodiment, a push (or plunger type) actuated lock is provided. The push actuated lock of the

present disclosure may be coupled to multiple peg styles including, but not limited to: single wire with bend of multiple angles, single wire with bend of multiple angles with ball end, double wire with bend of multiple angles, double wire with bend of multiple angles with ball end, etc. The "push type" display lock of the present disclosure is designed with easy slip-off and slip-on features and can be placed back on the display hook and locked after the key has been removed from the lock. The push actuated display hook lock includes changeable keyed cores with up to 400 different key numbers.

In another embodiment, the push actuated lock of the present disclosure may be employed with a locking plate in various applications such as for a showcase door, drawer and sliding door of a store fixture.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The above and other aspects, features, and advantages of the present disclosure will become more apparent in light of the following detailed description when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings in which:

FIG. **1**A is a perspective view of a conventional peg hook for displaying products;

FIG. **1**B is a perspective view of a conventional peg hook with a ball tip for displaying products;

FIG. **1**C is a perspective view of conventional peg hooks with an information tag for displaying products;

FIG. **1**D is a perspective view of a conventional double wire peg hook for displaying products;

FIG. **2** is a perspective view of a locking device for securing a single wire peg hook in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. **3** illustrates the locking device of FIG. **2** coupled to a peg hook in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. **4** is an exploded top perspective view of the locking device of FIG. **2** in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. **5** is an exploded bottom perspective view of the locking device of FIG. **2** in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. **6** is a perspective view of a locking device for securing a single wire peg hook in accordance with another embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. **7** is a first side view of the locking device of FIG. **6** in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. **8** is a second side view of the locking device of FIG. **6** in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. **9** is the second side view of the locking device of FIG. **6** in use in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. **10** is a perspective view of a locking device for securing a double wire peg hook in accordance with another embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. **11** illustrates the locking device of FIG. **10** being coupled to a double wire peg hook in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. **12** is an exploded view of the locking device of FIG. **10** in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. **13** illustrates various views of the locking device of FIG. **10** in an unlocked state in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. **14** illustrates various views of the locking device of FIG. **10** in a locked state in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. **15** illustrates a locking device of the present disclosure employed with a locking bracket for use with a drawer of a cabinet;

FIG. **16** illustrates a locking device of the present disclosure employed with a locking bracket for use with a door of a cabinet, the locking bracket mounted on the top of the door;

FIG. **17** illustrates a locking device of the present disclosure employed with a locking bracket for use with a door of a cabinet, the locking bracket mounted on the side of the door;

FIG. **18** illustrates a locking device of the present disclosure employed with a locking plate on a sliding door;

FIG. **19** illustrates a top view and side view of a strike plate with offset for use with a door or drawer of a cabinet in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. **20** illustrates a top view and side view of a strike plate with no offset for use with a door or drawer of a cabinet in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure; and

FIG. **21** illustrates a locking bar for use with a sliding glass door in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure.

It should be understood that the drawings are for purposes of illustrating the concepts of the disclosure and are not necessarily the only possible configuration for illustrating the disclosure.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Preferred embodiments of the present disclosure will be described hereinbelow with reference to the accompanying drawings. In the following description, well-known functions or constructions are not described in detail to avoid obscuring the present disclosure in unnecessary detail.

Referring to FIGS. **2-5**, a locking device **100** for a single wire peg hook is illustrated, where FIG. **2** is a perspective view of the locking device **100**, FIG. **3** is a view with the locking device **100** coupled to peg hook **10**, FIG. **4** is an exploded top view of the locking device **100**, and FIG. **5** is an exploded bottom view of the locking device **100**. The locking device **100** includes a cylinder plug **102**, which includes a key hole **104**, an arced channel **105** on an end opposite the key hole **104**, and a plurality of tumblers **106**. It is to be appreciated that the cylinder plug **102** may take forms other than that shown in figures, for example, the cylinder plug **102** may be an electronic cylinder core, a small format interchangeable core (SFIC), etc. The cylinder plug **102** is disposed in a cylindrical shell **108** and retained therein by barrel pin **116**. A longitudinal axis **140** of the cylinder plug **102** may be aligned with a longitudinal axis of the cylindrical shell **108**. Barrel pin **116** is disposed in an aperture **117** through a wall of the cylindrical shell **108** in such a manner that the barrel pin **116** projects from both sides of the wall of the cylindrical shell **108**. On the inner portion of the wall of the cylindrical shell **108**, the barrel pin **116** extends into arced channel **105** of the cylinder plug **102** to rotatably retain the cylinder plug **102** in the cylindrical shell **108**.

A plunger locking bolt **112** and bolt spring **114** are disposed in slot **115** of cylindrical shell **108**. Bolt spring **114** biases the plunger locking bolt **112** outwardly. Depending on a key position in the key hole **104** of the locking device **100**, the plunger locking bolt **112** may be positioned in a "locked"

or "unlocked" position. The cylindrical shell **108** includes a cylindrical projection or plunger **110**, the function of which will be described below.

The cylindrical shell **108** is longitudinally aligned with and disposed in an inner body **120**. The cylindrical shell **108** is biased away from the inner body **120** by a barrel spring **118**. The portion of the barrel pin **116** extending outside the wall of the cylindrical shell **108** rides in an elongated slot **121** in a wall of the inner body **120**. The slot **121** controls the longitudinal front to back motion of the cylindrical shell **108** with respect to the inner body **120**. When the locking device **100** is locked, the barrel pin **116** will be at the back **123** of the slot **121**. When unlocked, the barrel pin **116** will be at the front **125** of the slot **121**.

The inner body **120** is further disposed in an outer housing **122** and is retained therein by retaining pins **124** via apertures **131** in the outer housing **122** and apertures **129** in the inner body **120**. The outer housing **122** comprises an outer wall and a hollow interior. The outer housing **122** includes a first peg hook aperture **126** (FIG. **4**) and a second peg hook aperture **128** (FIG. **5**), generally positioned on opposite sides of the outer housing **122** near an end **134** of the outer housing **122**. The first and second peg hook apertures **126**, **128** define a channel **136** that allows the wire **12** of the peg hook **10** to pass therethrough. Optionally, a sticker **130** may be provided and disposed on the outer housing **122** to provide information to a user and/or consumer.

In use, end **16** of peg hook **10**, or other extended wire of another device to be secured, is inserted into one of the apertures **126**, **128**, through the channel **136**, and out the other aperture **126**, **128**. According to some uses, the peg hook **10** may be inserted until the bend **14** is approximately in the middle of the channel **136** of the outer housing **122**. The locking device **100** is actuated (i.e., locked) by pressing the cylindrical shell **108** into the outer housing **122** in the direction of arrow A as shown in FIG. **3**, causing the projection **110** to come into contact with the bend **14** of wire **12**. Internally, bolt spring **114** biases plunger locking bolt **112** into slot **127** of the inner body **120**. In this manner, the locking device **100** is securely locked onto the peg hook **10** preventing removal of any items disposed thereon.

To unlock and remove the locking device **100**, a correct key is inserted into the key hole **104** releasing cylindrical shell **108**, which is forced away from the outer housing **122** via the barrel spring **118**. When the correct key is inserted into the key hole **104**, the tumblers **106** are engaged to create a "shear line" to allow the cylindrical plug **102** to rotate clockwise. An engaging element **107** protruding from a rear portion of the cylindrical plug **102** engages an aperture **113** of the spring-loaded plunger locking bolt **112** as the cylindrical plug **102** is rotated, pulling the plunger locking bolt **112** inward. Upon being driven inward, the plunger locking bolt **112** disengages from the slot **127** of the inner body **120** and barrel spring **118** pushes the cylindrical shell **108** out, thereby disengaging the projection **110** from the wire **12**, peg hook, or strike plate inserted through the aperture **126**, **128** in the outer housing **122** to allow the lock to be removed to access the merchandise. In some embodiments, the locking device **100** may be used with any wire **12**, peg hook, strike plate, and any device with an extending wire arm, with or without a bend in the wire. The locking device **100** may be configured to clamp the side of the wire, either at a straight section or bent section of the wire.

Referring to FIGS. **6-9**, another embodiment of a locking device **150** for securing a wire peg hook is illustrated. FIG. **6** is a perspective view of the locking device **150**; FIG. **7** is a first side view with the locking device **150**; FIG. **8** is a second side view of the locking device **150**; and FIG. **9** is the second side view with a wire peg hook inserted through a channel of the locking device **150**.

The locking device **150** includes a cylinder plug **152**, which includes a key hole **154** and a plurality of tumblers (not shown). The cylinder plug **152** is disposed in a cylindrical shell **156** and the cylindrical shell **156** is slidably disposed in an outer housing **158**. In some embodiments, the cylindrical shell **156** is disposed in an inner body that is further disposed in the outer housing, such as is described above with respect to locking device **100**.

The locking device **150** may also include the same or similar internal elements as the elements of locking device **100**, the details of which are not being repeated here for the sake of brevity. The difference between the locking devices **100**, **150**, however, is that the locking device **100** has a single channel and the locking device **150**, shown in FIGS. **6-9**, includes two intersecting channels. The channels are different sizes to accommodate different sizes of peg hooks or wires. Also, the larger sized channel is configured to accommodate peg hooks with an enlarged ball end, such as ball end **18** shown in FIG. **1B**.

The outer housing **158** includes a first pair of peg hook apertures **160** and a second pair of peg hook apertures **162**. The peg hook apertures **160** have a smaller diameter than those of peg hook apertures **162**. Each pairs of peg hook apertures **160**, **162** may be formed on opposite sides of the outer housing **158**. The first pair of peg hook apertures **160** defines a first channel **164** (shown in phantom in FIG. **7**). The second pair of peg hook apertures **162** defines a second channel **166** (shown in phantom in FIG. **8**). The first channel **164** allows a peg hook **170** having a bend **172** to pass therethrough. The second channel **166** allows peg hooks having even larger diameters than the peg hook **170** to pass therethrough.

In use, an end **174** of peg hook **170**, or the end of any suitable wire extending from a device to be secured, is inserted into one of the apertures **160**, through the channel **164**, and out the other aperture **160** on the opposite side of the outer housing **158**. The peg hook **170** may be inserted until the bend **172** is approximately in the middle of the channel **164** of the outer housing **158**. The locking device **150** is actuated (i.e., locked) by pressing the cylinder plug **152** or cylindrical shell **156** in the direction of arrow A as shown in FIG. **9** such that a projection **168** of the cylindrical shell **156** comes into contact with a straight portion of the peg hook **170** or the bend **172** of the peg hook **170**. Internally, a plunger locking bolt (not shown) engages in a slot (not shown) to maintain the projection **168** in the locked position. In this manner, the locking device **150** is securely locked onto the peg hook **170** preventing removal of any items disposed thereon.

To unlock and remove the locking device **150**, a correct key is inserted into the key hole **154** releasing cylindrical shell **156**, which may be forced away from the channels **164**, **166** of the outer housing **158** by a spring. When the cylindrical shell **156** is pushed away from the channels, the projection **168** disengages from the peg hook **170** inserted through one of the channels **164**, **166**, allowing the locking device **150** to be removed to access the merchandise. In some embodiments, the locking device **150** may be used with any wire, peg hook (e.g., peg hook **170**), strike plate, or any device with an extending wire arm, with or without a bend in the wire. The locking device **150** may be configured to clamp the side of the wire, either at a straight section or bent section of the wire.

Referring to FIGS. **10-14**, a locking device **200** for securing a double wire display hook is illustrated. FIG. **10** is a perspective view of the locking device **200**; FIG. **11** is a perspective view of the locking device **200** being coupled to a double wire peg hook **32**; and FIG. **12** is an exploded view of the locking device **200**. FIG. **13** shows various views of the locking device **200** in an unlocked state; and FIG. **14** shows various views of the locking device **200** in a locked state. It is to be appreciated that the locking device **200** uses similar components and functions similar to locking devices **100** and **150**. However, locking device **200** includes a different outer housing **222** to interact with different types of peg hooks and strike plates.

The locking device **200** includes a cylinder plug **202** which includes a key hole **204** and a plurality of tumblers **206**. The cylinder plug **202** is disposed in a cylindrical shell **208** and retained therein by barrel pin **216**. Barrel pin **216** is disposed in aperture (not shown) of the cylindrical shell **208** in such a manner that the barrel pin **216** projects from both sides of the wall of the cylindrical shell **208**. On the inner portion of the wall of the cylindrical shell **208**, the barrel pin **216** enters a channel (not shown) of the cylinder plug **202** to retain the cylinder plug **202** in the cylindrical shell **208**, as described above in relation to locking device **100**.

Plunger locking bolt **212** and bolt spring **214** work together to keep the cylindrical shell **208** in the locked position when the plunger locking bolt **212** engages slot **227** in inner body **220**. Barrel pin **216** mounted in cylindrical shell **208** rides in an elongated slot (not shown) in inner body **220** to control the longitudinal front to back motion or "throw" of the lock. The barrel pin **216** remains in the most rearward position in the slot when in the unlocked position and is moveable to the most forward position in the slot to be placed in the locked position. The cylindrical shell **208** includes an inner barrel plunger or projection **210**, the function of which will be described below.

The cylindrical shell **208** is disposed in the inner body **220** and is biased away from the inner body **220** by a spring **218**. The inner body **220** is further disposed in the outer housing **222** and is retained therein by retaining pins **224** via apertures **231** in the outer housing **222** and apertures **229** in the inner body **220**. The outer housing **222** includes a slot or aperture **226** to receive the loop **36** of the display hook **32** therein, as indicated by arrow B in FIG. **11**. It is to be appreciated that the aperture **226** may receive an end of a strike plate instead of a display hook, as will be described below. Optionally, a sticker **228** may be provided and disposed on the outer housing **222** to provide information to a user and/or consumer.

In use, the loop **36** of display hook **32**, as shown in FIG. **13**, is inserted into aperture **226** until the loop **36** comes into contact with a rear wall **230** of the outer housing **222** on the opposite end from the aperture **226**. The cylindrical shell **208** is then actuated into the outer housing **222**, in the direction of arrow C shown in FIG. **13**. This actuation causes the projection **210** to enter into an area surrounded by the loop **36** of the display hook **32**, as shown in FIG. **14**. Internally, bolt spring **214** biases plunger locking bolt **212** into slot **227** of the inner body **220**. In this manner, the locking device **200** securely locks onto the display hook **32** preventing removal of any items disposed thereon.

To remove the locking device **200**, a correct key is inserted into the key hole **204** releasing cylindrical shell **208**, which is forced away from the outer housing **222** via the spring **218**. When the key is inserted into the key hole **204**, the tumblers **206** are engaged to create a "shear line" to allow cylinder plug **202** to rotate clockwise. An engaging element **207** protruding from a rear portion of the cylinder plug **202** engages with an aperture **213** of the plunger locking bolt **212** driving the plunger locking bolt **212** inward. The plunger locking bolt **212** disengages from the slot **227** of the inner body **220** and spring **218** pushes the cylindrical shell **208** out, thereby disengaging the projection **210** from the peg hook **32** or strike plate inserted through the aperture **226** in the outer housing **222** to allow the lock to be removed to access the merchandise.

Products are also displayed and stored behind doors, drawers, and sliding doors in store fixtures. The locking function of the locking devices **100**, **150**, **200** of the present disclosure can be extended to any item with a protruding locking pin; e.g., a trailer hitch can use this design to lock down over the pin. For showcase retrofit purposes, being able to add either a locking pin or lockable strike to a showcase that does not have locks enables a lock to be affixed to different doors without the significant cost of labor to drill a mounting hole. Several mounting screws may affix the pins or strikes to allow the plunger lock to prevent the opening of the fixture. For example, FIG. **15** illustrates the locking device **200** of the present disclosure employed with a locking bracket or strike plate **301** for use with a drawer of a cabinet; FIG. **16** illustrates the locking device **200** of the present disclosure employed with a locking bracket **302** for use with a door of a cabinet, the locking bracket **302** mounted on the top of the door; FIG. **17** illustrates the locking device **200** of the present disclosure employed with a locking bracket **303** for use with a door of a cabinet, the locking bracket **303** mounted on the side of the door; and FIG. **18** illustrates the locking device **200** of the present disclosure employed with a locking plate **304** on a sliding door.

Referring to FIGS. **19-21**, various types of locking brackets or strike plates are illustrated. For example, a strike plate **310** for use on a door or drawer is illustrated in FIG. **19**. The strike plate **310** includes a mounting portion **312** for mounting the strike plate **310** to a fixture or the like via mounting holes **311**. The strike plate **310** further includes a receiving portion **314** coupled to the mounting portion **312** by offset **313**. In this embodiment, the receiving portion **314** is configured in a U-shape, forming slot **316**. In use, the strike plate **310** is mounted to an appropriate fixture, e.g., a cabinet. Upon closing an associated door or drawer of the cabinet, a locking device of the present disclosure, e.g., locking device **200**, is employed to secure the door or drawer. Here, the aperture **226** of the locking device **200** is disposed over the receiving portion **314** of the strike plate **310**. When the locking device **200** is actuated, the projection **210** enters the slot **316** securing the locking device **200** to the strike plate **310**.

FIG. **20** illustrates another embodiment of a strike plate **320**. Strike plate **320** functions similar to strike plate **310** but does not include an offset. Strike plate **320** includes a mounting portion **322** (with mounting holes **321**) coupled to a receiving portion **324** having a slot **326** to receive, for example, projection **210**.

FIG. **21** illustrates a locking bar **330** to be used with glass doors. Bent end **331** of locking bar **330** is secured to a fixture or one of a pair of sliding glass doors. The locking bar **330** includes a plurality of turns **332**, **334**, **336**, **338**, **340**, **342** configured to receive a locking device of the present disclosure, e.g., locking device **200**. Each turn includes an inner portion **344**, **346**, **348**, **350**, **352**, **354**. In use, locking bar **330** is coupled to the fixture or sliding glass door (not shown). The locking device **200** is disposed over the locking bar **330** such that one of the turns **332**, **334**, **336**, **338**, **340**, **342** enters

the aperture **226** of the locking device **200**. The projection **210** of the locking device **200** is then actuated into a locking position, where the projection **210** enters the area defined by the inner portion **344**, **346**, **348**, **350**, **352**, **354** of the corresponding turn, securing the locking device **200** to the locking bar **330**. In addition to strike plates **310**, **320** and locking bar **330**, the locking device **200** may be configured to lock onto any device having an extending wire hook or loop of an appropriate size to fit into aperture **226**.

It is to be appreciated that the various features shown and described are interchangeable, that is, a feature shown in one embodiment may be incorporated into another embodiment.

It is further to be appreciated that the teachings of the present disclosure may apply to other fixtures not shown or described. For example, a school or gym locker may include two members with aligning holes that would conventionally accept a pad lock to secure the locker. The locking devices of the present disclosure may be adapted so the projection or plunger **110**, **210** enters the aligning holes to secure the contents of the locker.

While the disclosure has been shown and described with reference to certain preferred embodiments thereof, it will be understood by those skilled in the art that various changes in form and detail may be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope of the disclosure.

Furthermore, although the foregoing text sets forth a detailed description of numerous embodiments, it should be understood that the legal scope of the invention is defined by the words of the claims set forth at the end of this patent. The detailed description is to be construed as exemplary only and does not describe every possible embodiment, as describing every possible embodiment would be impractical, if not impossible. One could implement numerous alternate embodiments, using either current technology or technology developed after the filing date of this patent, which would still fall within the scope of the claims.

It should also be understood that, unless a term is expressly defined in this patent using the sentence "As used herein, the term '_____' is hereby defined to mean . . . " or a similar sentence, there is no intent to limit the meaning of that term, either expressly or by implication, beyond its plain or ordinary meaning, and such term should not be interpreted to be limited in scope based on any statement made in any section of this patent (other than the language of the claims). To the extent that any term recited in the claims at the end of this patent is referred to in this patent in a manner consistent with a single meaning, that is done for sake of clarity only so as to not confuse the reader, and it is not intended that such claim term be limited, by implication or otherwise, to that single meaning. Finally, unless a claim element is defined by reciting the word "means" and a function without the recital of any structure, it is not intended that the scope of any claim element be interpreted based on the application of 35 U.S.C. §112, sixth paragraph.

What is claimed is:

1. A locking device comprising:

an outer housing including an outer wall and a hollow cylindrical interior, the hollow cylindrical interior having a first longitudinal axis, the outer housing further including a first, second, third, and fourth aperture, the first and second apertures defining a first channel extending through the interior of the outer housing from the first aperture to the second aperture, the third and fourth apertures defining a second channel extending through the interior of the outer housing from the third aperture to the fourth aperture, the first channel and the second channel traversing the first longitudinal axis, wherein the first and second aperture have a first diameter and the third and fourth aperture have a second diameter, the first diameter being different from the second diameter;

a cylindrical shell including a projection, the cylindrical shell being at least partially disposed in the interior of the outer housing and moveable within the interior along the first longitudinal axis;

a cylinder plug having a key hole and tumblers, the cylinder plug being rotatably contained within the cylindrical shell; and

a barrel spring at least partially contained within the interior of the outer housing, the barrel spring configured to bias the projection of the cylindrical shell away from the first and second channels to an unlocked position;

wherein the first and second channels are each configured to receive a wire to be locked, and wherein, in the locked position, the projection is extended into the first and second channels and maintained in the first and second channels to provide a clamping force against the wire when the wire is received by the first or second channel.

2. The locking device of claim **1**, wherein the first channel and second channel intersect within the interior of the outer housing.

3. A locking device comprising:

an outer housing including an outer wall and a hollow cylindrical interior having a first longitudinal axis, the outer housing further including a first, second, third, and fourth aperture, the first and second apertures defining a first channel extending through the interior of the outer housing from the first aperture to the second aperture, the third and fourth apertures defining a second channel extending through the interior of the outer housing from the third aperture to the fourth aperture, the first channel and the second channel traversing the first longitudinal axis;

a shell having a projection, the shell being at least partially disposed in the interior of the outer housing and longitudinally moveable within the interior of the outer housing; and

a barrel spring at least partially contained within the interior of the outer housing, the barrel spring configured to bias the projection of the shell away from the first and second channels to an unlocked position;

wherein, in a locked position, the projection of the shell is maintained in the first and second channels.

4. The locking device of claim **3**, wherein the first and second channels are each configured to receive a wire to be locked, and wherein, in the locked position, the projection is extended into the first and second channels to provide a clamping force against a side of the wire when the wire is received by the first or second channel.

5. The locking device of claim **3**, wherein the first channel and second channel intersect within the interior of the outer housing.

6. The locking device of claim **3**, wherein the first and second apertures each have a first diameter and the third and fourth apertures each have a second diameter, the first diameter being different from the second diameter.

7. The locking device of claim **3**, further comprising an inner body mounted inside the outer housing, the inner body comprising a first slot and a second slot.

8. The locking device of claim **7**, further comprising a plunger locking bolt movably mounted on the shell, wherein

the first slot of the inner body receives the plunger locking bolt to maintain the projection in the locked position.

9. The locking device of claim **7**, further comprising a barrel pin secured to and extending outward from the shell, where the second slot of the inner body receives an end of the barrel pin to limit the range of longitudinal motion of the shell with respect to the outer housing.

10. The locking device of claim **3**, further comprising a cylinder plug having a key hole and tumblers, the cylinder plug being rotatably contained within the shell.

11. The locking device of claim **10**, further comprising a barrel pin secured to the shell, the barrel pin extending into an arced channel of the cylinder plug, wherein the barrel pin and arced channel limit the range of rotation of the cylinder plug within the shell.

12. A locking device comprising:

a housing including an outer wall defining an interior having a first longitudinal axis, the housing further including a first channel extending through the interior of the housing from a first aperture on the outer wall to a second aperture on the outer wall and a second channel extending through the interior of the housing from a third aperture on the outer wall to a fourth aperture on the outer wall, the first channel and the second channel traversing the first longitudinal axis; and

a shell including a projection, the shell being at least partially disposed within the interior of the housing and moveable in a longitudinal direction within the interior of the housing;

wherein, in an unlocked position, the projection is biased away from the first channel, and, in a locked position, the projection is maintained in the first and second channels.

13. The locking device of claim **12**, wherein the first channel extends at an angle with respect to the direction of longitudinal movement of the shell.

14. The locking device of claim **13**, wherein the second channel intersects the first channel within the interior of the housing.

15. The locking device of claim **12**, wherein the locking device is configured to be locked onto at least one of a straight wire and a bent wire.

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